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Partial Transcription of the 1900 Journal

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January

20 Jan. Bright sunshine late this P.M. After an almost ____ start, night and days rain. Miss Leon & Clara around. This afternoon Paul took Uncle Joe down home and Jason to Aunt Mary's. This eve - Clara and Leon drove down to the office and Clayton came home with them. I have been in bed all day - I crawled out this evening. Robert has surely been faithful today.

21 January, Sabb. Quite a bright day. Clara and Leon S. went to Sabbath School - & to church. At a later hour Paul and his father went to church. Clayton was disappointed in his plans and did not go. I was at home as I scarcely felt able to go. Robert had dinner ready when they came! Mr. Morton preached as usual. Clayton had a nice time in the school house and at three o'clock he and Paul and I were there. He had fourteen scholars. This after lunch Clayton took Clara and Leon down to church to the U.P. church - sermon by Rev. Ross. Paul recited his questions tonight & read the Sabbath School lesson.

22 January Monday. Bright sunshine all day almost like spring. Clayton rode down with someone when passing early - so he could get to College in time. Near noon Clara & Leon at the office - home in time for dinner. Uncle Joe came out near noon with Uncle Joe when passing. [are there two Uncle Joes?] Albert came back this P.M. too. he has been since? in Dec. This afternoon he and uncle Joe hung the meat. Clara and Leon took a drive to Selma. Paul at school today. Mr. Mc. at Ced - this P.M. I sent the washing to Mrs. P - today - ____ taken last week, this makes the 3rd washing this year. This Eve Clara & Leon at the College at a meeting of the Society. Clayton came out home with them.

23 Jan. Tues. Another Bright day. Philip and Albert at the work - This A.M. - Mr. Mc. left for Xenia - Uncle Dan was in Ced - and went with him - They took dinner together in some part of the city and reached home near dark - This morning Clayton went back to College with McDarmon boys. Later on Clara and Leon made a call at the College - and waited for the ____ mail and were home in time for dinner. Mr. Voncozier stopped and took dinner with us today. He would like to have seen Mr. Mc. Uncle Joe here - we had a pleasant hour with Mr. Voncozier. This afternoon Uncle Joe at Ced - This evening Clara and Leon went to the surprise at Blanch and Mary's - Paul at school today. Clayton came home with the girls tonight.

26 January. Friday - Cold - but bright sunshine. Robert at his post. Uncle Joe, Albert, and Philip looking after things - Clara and Miss Leon _____ the College at noon by special arrangement and took dinner with Miss Groff & Miss Prof. Beagell and others - They came home this P.M. Mr. Mc. and I were invited to Dave & _____ & _____ to dinner. We met Dave Williamsons - ____ ____, Mr. & Mrs. France - Mr. & Mrs. Maston - & Cousin Mary McMillan and her sister the _____ of Logan Co. - and Uncle Dan. We had quite a pleasant day. After supper this evening Clara and Leon went to Miss Belle Winters to spend the evening. Paul was at

school today. O by the way this is my birthday. 1844 ----- 1900. And the years roll on. Clayton came home with the girls tonight.

28 January Sabbath. A light covering of snow on the ground - it is still cold - Clayton and Clara and I at Sabbath School and church. Mr. Mc. at church & Jason was there with Aunt Mary - he and Clayton both went home with her after preaching. Mr. Morton's text "For our light afflictions, which is but for a moment, worketh for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory; While we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen; for the things which are seen are temporal; but the things which are not seen are eternal." This sermon was almost triumphant today.

Paul at home Robert had dinner ready when we came home - Albert built the fish in the School soon today. This afternoon at three o'clock Paul and I were there - we had six scholars. This evening Paul recited his catechism and he and I read the 1st chap. of John. This has been quite a winter day and a winter evening as well.

31 January. Wed. This is indeed a cold day - very close to zero. A peddler from Arabia here this morning. He has only been twenty days in this country. Just to make a good start for him for the day I made a little purchase from him. [...]

February

1 Feb. Thursday.... I wrote to all the children that are away today. [...]

6 Feb. Tuesday... I have been putting my time in these days on a feather mattress. [...]

7 Feb. Wed. ... This afternoon Clara and I at the Congregational prayer meeting. The meeting was prayer for the new church building. [...]

8 Feb. Thursday. ... I have put in another day on the feather mattress. [...] The smallpox in Ced. is on the increase. I do not forget that this is Fannie's birthday although she is far away tonight. A peddler stopping in the barn tonight with his team.

9 Feb. Friday. ...I finished my feather mattress today. This is the second one I have made. [...]

12 Feb. [...] I began the third feather mattress today. [...] I have been on the sick list today.

14 Feb. Wed. A chilly day. The ground damp - Mr. Mc. at Mr. Amos Creswell's sale - They came home past Ced. Will Mc. rode out with him. The Faith Cure folks are taking the town.

They were baptizing some of their converts this afternoon. They stopped at the creek as they came home. There were a great many at the sale. Mr. Mc. there to dinner. Uncle Joe at C, this P.m. - home in time to dinner. [...] I have been at the mattress today again.

15 Feb. Thurs. [...] This afternoon I attended the W.C.T.U meeting at Mrs. Morton's. We had a pretty full meeting - it will be two years Saturday since Miss Frances E. Willard died. [...] This eve Robert and Albert and Charlie N. at the Opera House at "Uncle Tom's Cabin."

17 Feb. Sat. [...] This is quite a winter night; too "cool" for me to venture out. [...]

18 Feb. Sabbath. [...] Clara and Leon and Paul and I started to Sabbath School, only Paul and I reached there - the girls at church - and so were we - "Paul and I." [...] Charlie and Paul and I there [at Sabbath School]. We had five scholars - only. [...]

21 Feb. Wed. [...] Robert has been on the sick list all day - I have been taking his place.

23 Feb. Friday. [...] This afternoon Mr. Mc. and I at a congregational meeting to talk action on a new church building. [...]

24 Feb. Sabbath. [...] At noon David McPrath? an Irishman late of Chicago stopped in and was nearly froze - he stayed with us for dinner - and with us tonight. This evening Albert Harris like the prodigal of old came stepping in to get out of the severe cold. [...] I heard Paul's catechism and we read the first chapter of Mark. [...]

27 Feb. Tues. [...] Our good man who stopped with us Sabbath went on this morning - he was so good and kind to help that I have been sad to think of him being gone. [...]

March

6 March. Tuesday. [...] This morning early Clayton and Charlie N. were up - I was up too and prepared their breakfast. [...] I have been busy today too. [...]

7 March. Wed. [...] This afternoon I went to the congregational prayer meeting.

9 March. Friday. [...] Mr. Henry Houston very sick - he is very rich but that will not buy his life. [...] I attended the WCTU at Mrs. Alexander's - after the meeting Aunt Belle and I walked out to Tom Crawford's to call but they were not at home... I took supper at Aunt Mary's with Clayton, Jason, Mr. Wallace, and Miss Graff. At a later hour Clara was in to supper. This evening Clara and Jason and I went with Aunt Mary to the hall to a prayer meeting on behalf of new church - after the prayer meeting she and Clayton and Jason at the Opera House at the show - It sprinkled

rain this evening. I stayed at Aunt Mary's until eleven o'clock when Clara and Jason and I came home.

10 March. Saturday. [...] All of us up at the ringing of the first bell. [...] I have put in a busy day. This afternoon I took Uncle Joe down home... When in C. I made a brief call at Aunt Mary's - I called at Dave Mc's along with others. [...]

11 March. Sabbath. [...] Mr. Morton's text "Unto the upright there ariseth light in the darkness." Where is the light seen? It is seen in the Christian's character. The light ariseth in the darkness of the Christian's life. Light ariseth in the darkness of our devotions or religious acts in the closet - at the family altar in the house of God. The thought is darkness will come - and we will have light in the darkness - while it lasts - and then we will have light when the gloom and darkness of earth will have passed away. O thanks be to God that light has arisen to us in the darkness. [...] I heard Paul's question this evening. We read the Sabbath School lesson for next Sabbath. O by the way this is Clara's birthday - It was remembered by some of us at least.

13 March. Tuesday. [...] Clara and Robert and I all busy this afternoon. This afternoon late I took Clara to C. The Monmouth Glee Club came to town today. Miss Leon Slack and Miss Vesta Stuart drove down from Springfield to attend it - we met them coming up here but they turned and went back with us to town - and they and Clara stopped at Aunt Mary's for supper. Clara and the girls called at the Opera House to see the Monmouth folks and they rec'd a warm reception. I came home alone - and Mr. Mc. drove back to town to attend the meeting and to bring Clara home. Uncle Joe went back to town with Jim ?. Peter here with Albert and Robert - Paul here with me. Mag. H. Here and helped out this afternoon. Uncle Dan called today. Leon and Vesta came home with father and Fannie [I think she meant Clara?].

14 March. Wed. [...] I did not forget that this was Harlan's birthday - Each birthday marks the closing of a large book of our life - the book of a year.

18 March. Sabbath. [...] Mr. Morton's text "Take up the stumbling blocks." Mr. Mc. at church - he was not in long until a message came for him to come home that the tenant house was burning down - but when he reached here it was burned to the ground and the Curl family were turned out of their house and home. Harry took our carriage and took them to his friends in Selma - his goods stored in the wagon in the barn until tomorrow. [...] This afternoon Jason and Paul made the fire in the school house and were there for Sabbath School. Only five scholars. I tried to make the most of the hour. Jason helped in the singing. [...]

22 March. [...] At three o'clock I went to town - and stopped at Aunt Mary, Bessie Clain - and Walker and Miss Robb there - also Clayton and Jason and Miss Graff - I called at Mr. Morton's. Aund Belle - and Mrs. J.S. Williamson. I payed my missionary money for the year. This Eve

Aunt Mary and Clayton and Jason and I at the young folks meeting - at the close of it we all remained for Rev. Benson's sermon. Mr. Mc., Clara there. [...] Clayton came home with me tonight.

23 March. Friday. A bright day. This morning I went down to Aunt Mary's when Clayton went to College - She is not well. I went to take charge of the work... After the work was finished up Clayton took me up to the two o'clock meeting at our church. [...] A good reason for not doing a thing is because you do not have a reason for doing it. A man has not half learned the lesson of life who has not learned the value of time. Young men aim high and always aim - We honor God by being faithful and if we follow Jesus we grow into his likeness. May each one of us go forth feeling the power and love and joy and blessedness of the indwelling Christ. After preaching I called at Aunt Mary's. She was not able to be out today. [...] Clara took a donation for the Curl family who were reported to be in a starving condition and then she and Daisy Gray and Belle Winston went over to Clifton to the play of Cedarville College at the Clifton Opera House. [...]

24 March. Sat. [...] Let us look away from ourselves to Jesus and say to the blessed master I am not willing but I am willing to be made willing and to give to thee the right away.

25 March. Sabbath. [...] One thing I noticed [about the sermon] especially - The testimony of God is wonderful in its aptness to guide. If you do not know where to go, go to the Bible and the Spirit will guide you in the way in which you are to go. Be assured your case is not so wonderful as not to be found in the Bible.

26 March. Monday. A gloomy day. I brought this book with me to town and will write a few items here - when I go back home I will include all the happenings at home in one entry.

28 March. Wed. [...] I put in the A.M. writing.

30 March. Friday. [A gloomy day, she sounds rather depressed, and then] ... For the encouragement of those who have to go steadily on in their work day after day I will insert the following lines to help us to go on cheerfully and hopefully -

“Live for something, live in earnest,
Though thy work may humble be,
By the world of men unnoticed,
Known alone to God and thee.
Every act has priceless value;
To the architect of fate;
Tis the spirit of thy doing -
This alone - that makes it great.”

April

2 April. Monday. [...] I have been fitting in much of my time reading David Harmon? written by Edward Nojes? Westcott. [...]

4 April. Wed. [...] I went with her [Clara] as far as town and stopped off at the monthly prayer meeting. I called and spent a while with Walter at his office. I went to Aunt Mary's and took supper with their boarders. Clayton and Jason there as usual - I called to see Ervin he is still in bed. I also called to see Mrs. ____ - Clara took supper at Aunt Mary's. We did not get home until after dark - If Florence had lived she would have been fourteen today.

9 April. Monday. [...] This was the afternoon for school elections. I went up and cast my vote. Etta McMillan, Uncle Dan and Mr. Henry Kyle and son J ____ & Willie Mc lingering. Will was the only candidate he seemed right - along and was elected - but that was right for all wanted him. ... Father heard from the election and did not deem it necessary to attend but passed on to Charleston. [...]

12 April. Thursday. A gloomy day. I left Clara in charge - Paul at school. Mr. Mc. around. Uncle Joe took me down to Ced. this morning and left me there to attend the Greene C. WCTU Convention which met in the M.E. Church. I _____[she left a long blank space]____ but was too late for the eight o'clock. I was in time for the eleven o'clock. I expected to meet our State President Mrs. Clark but she could not come and sent her sister Mrs. Castle in her place. Mr. Brotherton took us up to the convention in his carriage - Mrs. Clara Dean of Jamestown is county president. We took our dinner at the M.E. Parsonage with Mrs. Maddocks - the Rev. was not at home but was called away for the day. We had a full meeting delegate from all the Unions. This evening I took tea at Aunt Mary's along with her boarders.... This evening we were at the M.E. church again and were addressed by Mrs. Castle and Miss ?. [...]

15 April. Sabbath. Easter Sunday. [...] The subject: wayside ministries - the little things done between the greater things are the wayside ministries. How can this wayside ministry be performed? The answer is by improving the opportunities afforded in everyday life - Next what is the power and importance of these little unplanned acts of love and kindness to others? The power is so far reaching that it never can be known the greatness of it on this side of eternity. O how great and wonderful is the blessedness of little acts of kindness and benevolence and charity shown along life's pathway. It is not so much what we do as what we are that counts - These wayside ministries are important because they determine our destiny. What opportunities do we have for performing the wayside ministries? If our hearts are full of love we have ample opportunity at every turn in life. Let us scatter joy and gladness and sunshine wherever we go - that our lives may be a benediction. [...]

18 April. Tuesday. [...] Our colored man Mr. Horton was missing this morning. We will have to believe it is all for the better. ... This PM I took B-- down home. I made but a short stay in the town. As I came home I found Alex M. Puck? in Ced. he had just got off the five o'clock train. We were all simply delighted to see him. [...]

19 April. Thurs. [...] This afternoon Uncle Joe and I at the Cedarville Cemetery at Mr. Smith Buck's funeral. They brought his remains from his late home in Xenia. [...]

20 April Friday. [...] I have been on the sick list today. [...]

21 April. Sat. [...] A beautiful thought written by Newell Dwight Hillis - "As the husbandman in the garden hastens to cast out all thorns, briars, and thistles and usher in the snowdrop, the roses, the fragrant violet, so let man make haste to expel from his heart all hatreds, envies, and jealousies, counting to the ____ weeds which have no place there. Let him bring in all truth, justice, purity, love, flowers, these that are rooted in heaven, but that bloom or blossom up our earth." I felt I must write this in this book that I could read it often - how beautiful the carrying out of this would make our lives. [...]

23 April. Monday. [...] Dan going right along at the work. He helped Clara and I take up the bedroom carpet. I finished the fussing there and began cleaning the sitting room out. [...]

24 April. Tuesday. [...] Cleaned the bedroom out and put down the carpet. I began cleaning the sitting room fuss in continuance today.

26 April. Thurs. [...] This was the day of the meeting of our Missionary Society - I expected to have gone, but at the last I concluded to go out in behalf of our Sabbath School and let the rest of the good members talk case of the Society. I called at Miss Alderage's and Jim Matthews - Caloways and Mrs Conohus - and soke at Nyes as I past to Ced. and was kindly rec'd by all. If all were half as interested as they seemed and would do half as well as they promised, it would be almost a great revival in the work. I called to see Mrs. Hess the sewing woman in Ced. and at Aunt Mary's and at Aunt Bell's - they had a pleasant time at Mathus Stuart's reception. [...]

28 April. Sat. [...] I took a hasty trip to town this morning to bring the boys out but met them coming. Jason went back to town with me to mail the letters. We came direct home.

30 April. Monday. [...] This PM I took the clothes to Mrs. P. and then I went to Aunt Mary's. I took supper there with her boarders. Jason and Clayton there to supper. [...] How the days are passing. Can hardly realize this is the last day of April.